

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at pg. 1, lns. 4-5 with the following paragraph:

B<sup>1</sup> ~~This~~ application is a continuation of PCT/US99/06514, filed March 25, 1999 which claims the benefit of from U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/079,755, filed March 27, 1998, now abandoned.

**In the Claims:**

Please rewrite claim 13 to read as follows.

13. (once amended) A method for determining the metastatic potential of a cancer in an afflicted patient comprising:

- B<sup>2</sup>
- 1) obtaining a sample of tumor tissue from the patient;
  - 2) obtaining a sample of normal tissue from the patient;
  - 3) determining the level of activated STAT-3 protein in the sample of tumor tissue and in the sample of normal tissue from the patient,

wherein an increased level of activated STAT-3 protein in the tumor tissue as compared to the control tissue indicates an increased metastatic potential of said tumor.

**Remarks**

The specification has been amended to reflect the priority status of the present application. A "marked-up" version of the replacement paragraph, as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b)(1)(iii), is included herein as Appendix A. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 1 - 29 are pending in the application. Claim 13 has been amended to correct a typographic error. Support for amended claim 13 is found on pg. 13, lns. 7-18; pg. 17, lns. 9-10; and pg. 18, ln. 26 to pg. 19, ln. 2. A "marked up" version of the amended claim has been included herein as Appendix B, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii).